

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
GIRLS REHABILITATION FACILITY
INSPECTION REPORT
2008 inspection; completed in March 2009

Facility Name: GIRLS REHAB. FACILITY

Superintendent: Yvette Klepin

Address: 2861 Meadow Lark Road
San Diego, CA 92123

Inspection Date: 3/4/09

Last Inspection Date: 2/07/08

Telephone Number: (858) 694-4510

Fax: (858) 514-8488

Type of Facility: Juvenile Hall

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:

Honorable Susan Huguenor

Staff Interviewed:

Yvette Klepin, Probation Superintendent
Leann Kowalski, Supervising Prob. Officer

Commission Inspection Team:

Kathleen K. Edwards
Jessica St. Clair

Juvenile Justice Commission Chair: Andrea Dixon

Comments and Recommendations:

The Girl's Rehabilitation Facility (GRF) is an intensive, highly structured program serving female girls ages 13-18. Girls 12 and under who are identified as candidates for the program must complete a special approval process to be permitted to participate. The programs offered are designed to meet each girl's personal, emotional and educational needs. The average length of stay at GRF is 10-12 weeks.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. 2007 recommendations are extended.
2. Expand services for girls who are survivors of sexual assault, including specialized individual counseling.
3. Explore using mediation to prepare girls who will be returning home to their families. Girls at GRF become accustomed to using mediation-based techniques to resolve conflicts with peers. Mediation skills should be presented to girls in such a way that they can identify what skills can be generalized for use at home or in the community.
4. The Commissioners who completed this inspection are concerned that the staffing ratio of 1:15 (which is compliant with Title 15 per Superintendent Klepin) may not be sufficient to meet the needs of the girls in the "A" wing, particularly during times when many of them are in their rooms and use knocking and slipping written notes under their doors (for emergencies and non-emergencies respectively) as their means of communicating needs to staff.
5. GRF staff communicates to Juvenile Field Services "outside" probation officers (JFS POs) when a girl's parents/family are not participating in services. JFS POs should consistently report to judges when parents and family are not participating in services.
6. Staff should consider categorizing grievances to have a more informed understanding of the number of grievances made regarding various issues. The Commissioners are not concerned by the number of grievances but believe categorizing grievances would result in more meaningful statistics.
7. CFMG, the employees of which are based at KMJDF, should include a parent or guardian in the initial health assessment or contact with parents should be made following the assessment routinely to supplement the information the girl is able to provide.
8. Superintendent Klepin indicated that medical staff at KMJDF have 20 minutes to respond to a girl's request for an inhaler during recreation activity. This policy should be communicated to girls who have made requests to assure them that they will have timely access to necessary medical support.
9. Staff should explore adding programs and/or program components for girls who have been incarcerated multiple times. Superintendent Klepin indicated that the YOU program may decrease the

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number of girls that return to GRF multiple times. Supervisor Kowalski added that the use of the Massey instrument as a screening mechanism for GRF may divert girls from GRF when the program is not one for which they are not well-suited.

10. Staff should review Code of California Regulations, Title 15 sections related to searches to ensure that current practices related to searching girls' rooms are in compliance with these requirements.

2007 RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Rehabilitate the Annex's (dormitories between Unit 400 and GRF) flooring, electrical outlets and lighting, and replace metal bunk beds and metal desks.
2. Replace existing washer and dryer with industrial-type washer and dryer.
3. Finish rehabilitating "Beauty Room."

None of the 2007 recommendations have been met due to budget constraints.

AREA REVIEWED:

R= Reviewed

NR=Not Reviewed

I= Interviewed

NI – Not Interviewed

QUALITY OF LIFE

Physical Plant - R
Meals/Nutrition - R
Mental Health - R
Physical/Dental Health - R
Religious Services - R
Volunteer Involvement - R
Visiting - R

PROGRAMS

Education - R
Vocation/Employability - R
Community Services – R
Victim/Gang Awareness - R
Substance Abuse - R

PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Minors - I
Superintendent - I
Medical/Psych. Staff - I
School Staff - I
Supervisor - I
Supervisor Staff (Counselors) - NI
Food Services Staff – NI
Teacher - I

SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION INDICATE:

Number of Suicides: 0

Number of Deaths from other causes: 0

Number of Attempted Suicides: 0

Number of Escapes: 0

Number of Attempted Escapes: 0

Local Inspections:

Medical/Mental Health: March 2008

Nutritional Health: March 2008

Environmental Health: March 2008

Fire Inspection: April 2008 (inspected every two years)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection?

No. The facility is at capacity. There were 50 girls at the time of this inspection.

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Does the facility house minors under Section 601 Welfare & Institutions Code?

No. Only children adjudicated pursuant to W&I Code 602 are housed at GRF.

STAFFING

Staff to Child Ratio:

Per the Superintendent and the Supervisor, staff-to-child ratio is compliant with existing standards – 1:15 awake and 1:30 asleep.

Communication in Language minor can understand?

The primary language spoken by the girls other than English is Spanish. Some of the Correctional Officers are bilingual, English/Spanish. KMJDF staff members are able to communicate in other languages, such as Tagalog, and could help facilitate communication if absolutely necessary. Additionally, the facility subscribes to Interpretalk, a telephone translation service which can provide telephone translation in a wide variety of languages within 30 minutes.

Diversity of Staff:

GRF staff is fairly diverse. The Supervisor described the ethnic makeup of the staff: 4 Hispanic, 3 Asian, 2 African American, 2 Male, and 11 Caucasian; 19 sworn officers and 1 support staff.

Staff/Minor interactions:

Communication skills are essential to the Correctional Deputy Probation Officer (CDPO) at GRF. Respectful interaction between staff and girls is expected continuously from both groups. CDPOs are critical, continual, and constant about their responsibilities to the girls. Each CDPO is assigned a caseload of four to five girls according to TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), Title XV that meets weekly on their 10- to 12-week program. The CDPO will take the role of mediator and motivate the girls through any behavioral or attitudinal issues that might prevent the girl from successfully completing the program. The Supervisor described the interactions between the staff as great and therapeutic. During the tours, the inspection team observed two or three girls greet the Superintendent and Supervisor. The girls' greetings were politely acknowledged.

Staff Interviews – Comments:

The Superintendent and Supervisor were cooperative, helpful and prepared for the inspection. Both seemed knowledgeable about GRF's strengths and areas for possible growth or improvement.

CONDITIONS OF GROUNDS

Lawns, playing fields, blacktop, asphalt and other:

There are picnic tables with umbrellas and an awning in back of the facility across from the new section in "B" Wing.

EXTERIOR OF BUILDINGS

General condition, paint, roof, drains/gutters and etc.:

The general condition of the building exterior is good. The areas around the building were free from litter or other debris.

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INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS

Interior:

The interior of the building was reasonably clean and organized. Girls have painted murals in various portions of the facility.

Laundry Room:

The laundry room is small and inadequate. The equipment is not commercial grade. The "Beauty Room" shares a wall with the current laundry facility. When funds are available, GRF would benefit tremendously from expanding the laundry facility into the Beauty Room and replacing the current washer and dryer with commercial equipment.

Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

All cleaning fluids and chemicals were stored in locked areas and away from the girls.

Weapons Locker location:

No weapons are allowed in this facility.

Recreation/Sports equipment:

GRF shares space with Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (KMJDF) for the use of the basketball and volleyball courts. There are a variety of organized sports that the girls can join if they choose to do so like basketball, soccer, and or running teams.

There is a large Day Room used for a variety of activities, including tutoring, religious services, meals and "parties" for girls who have earned them as a privilege. Musical instruments were donated recently and have been incorporated into the choir program. There is also an arts and crafts room that appeared to be well stocked with supplies. Both the Day Room and the common area in the "B" wing were stocked with books.

Are the hallways clear and doors propped open?

The hallways are clear and the doors are not propped open.

Court Holding area:

Not applicable to GRF.

Sleeping rooms/dormitories:

There are two wings, "A" and "B." The "A" wing appears to be much older, even though the 2007 report noted that this section was remodeled in 2005. The "B" wing appears to be much newer; the 2007 reported noted that the "B" wing was built in 2003. The Supervisor shared that the girls refer to "A" wing as "the ghetto" and the B wing as "the condos." The Supervisor stated that, while the girls use these terms to refer to the two wings, the staff do not use these terms. The "A" wing houses girls who are at early stages in their Passport to Life program, or who are having challenges or need to be separated for some reason. There are one-, two- and three-person rooms in the "A" wing. The number of roommates a girl has depends on her stage in the program and her reason for being housed in the "A" wing. The Supervisor stated that when girls prefer to be in a room alone, staff members attempt to determine the reason. The "B" wing houses girls who are further along in the program. Bedrooms in the "B" wing are shared by five girls.

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POs perform random searches of rooms. Two of the rooms the Inspection Team observed were searched earlier that morning. When a random search is performed, the entire room is taken apart and the contents are left in disarray for the girls who occupy the room to reorganize. Mattresses were on the floor along with most personal belongings. The Supervisor stated the purpose of these searches is to ensure that the girls do not have contraband items in their rooms, including "love notes" between the girls.

The Inspection Team is concerned that the methods employed to conduct these searches do not comply with California Code of Regulations, Title 15, specifically Title 15 §§ 4710 and 4711. Title 15 § 4711 requires that searches be conducted in a "positive and non-demeaning manner with the [girl] present when possible" and states that after the search is conducted, the property in the room "shall be left in a neat and orderly condition."

Girls who have just entered GRF are in locked rooms and must knock for a staff member or put a written notice on their doors. Girls who are not in locked rooms must also knock and wait to be acknowledged by staff. The Inspection Team has concerns about whether or not staff would be aware of a girl's problem in a timely manner during an emergency. Also, knocking may be very disruptive to girls trying to sleep or study in their rooms. Perhaps staff may consider an alternative system (like a call light) when funding is available.

Beds:

Beds in the "A" wing are metal and very old. Beds in the "B" wing are wooden and either bunk or single-style. Beds in the "A" wing should be replaced.

Art, books, personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms?

Some personal possessions are allowed in the sleeping room, such as books and writing materials. Other more decorative and personal possessions are permitted based on privileges earned. This is well documented in the GRF Rule Book. Parents are permitted to bring the girls their personal hygiene items on Thursday and Sunday after they pass on to the Journey phase of their Passport to Life Program. These items are checked, approved, and listed on each girl's property list.

Graffiti present?

No graffiti was observed during the Inspection Team's visit.

Ample blankets?

Each girl is issued two blankets upon admission. A girl may ask for additional blankets if needed. Blankets are very thin and some looked quite worn.

Study Area:

Girls generally study in their room. There is also the Day Room and common area in the "B" wing which have portions well set up for studying. Each bedroom has a writing shelf for the girls to use as a desk. No desk lighting was available. In the three bedrooms, only two desks were available.

Adequate lighting?

The "A" wing is darker and has less natural light than the "B" wing. It is conceivable that a girl with vision problems may have difficulty reading or studying in the "A" wing.

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Temperature:

The temperature was comfortable on the day of the inspection. Temperature is controlled as needed based on the weather. Adequate heating and air conditioning is provided when indicated.

ORIENTATION

Are minors oriented to rules and procedures?

Minors are oriented to the rules and procedures at GRF. Upon admission, each girl receives a written copy of "Girls Rehabilitation Facility Rule Book." They are also provided with a copy of "Passport to Life Program Phase Outline." Correctional staff individually orients each girl to the rules. Parents are also oriented to rules and expectations. Both the girl and the staff member will sign off that the girl has received orientation regarding the rules. Each girl is required to take and pass a test regarding the rules as part of the first phase of their Passport to Life program. A passing score is 80% or better. The Supervisor reported that almost all of the girls pass on the first attempt.

Are rules and grievance procedures posted?

Minors are provided with a written copy of the rules. The grievance procedure at GRF is posted and visible on both "A" and "B" wings. The Probation staff has revised the grievance process by adding a control number system to track all grievances. The development of a grievance log has been implemented to ensure all grievances are addressed. Third-year law students from the California Western School of Law help facilitate mediation between staff and girls. This mediation approach has had a successful turnover with day-to-day peer and staff conflicts. Girls can write a grievance on any issue.

Are rules and grievance procedures understood by minors?

All girls spend time in KMJDF before they are committed to GRF and, while in KMJDF, they receive a copy of the rule book that they carry throughout their commitment at GRF. Every girl has been educated on the rules and grievance procedures.

Minors Interviewed – Comments

The Inspection Team interviewed two girls. The Supervisor selected the girls interviewed. One girl is participating in the Short-Term Offender Program (STOP) and the other is participating in the full GRF program.

The girl participating in the STOP program reported that she has been incarcerated a total of 10 times and this is her fourth time at GRF. She reported that her primary issue was methamphetamine use. She was scheduled to be released within 6 days on the date of the inspection. She reported that she would be going to a rehabilitation program that would last approximately 6-9 months. She shared proudly that she had recently passed her GED. She also shared that she felt like her family is supportive of her. She hopes to have a career as a cosmetologist or as a motorcycle repair person. She expressed an interest in having her own business. She reported liking the food, especially the white bean soup. When asked if she would change anything about GRF she said no, and then added with a charming smile, "they are not beating us or anything."

The girl participating in the full program has been incarcerated 8 times and this is also her fourth time at GRF. She also reported that her primary issue was methamphetamine use. She volunteered that she is scheduled to be released in 27 days. She stated that her mother and grandmother were supportive of her. She hopes to be a cosmetologist, lawyer or special education teacher. She added that she has an

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interest in being a special education teacher largely because she has a younger sister with Down's syndrome. She reports not caring for the food much, especially the white bean soup. She also reports that the portions used to be larger and assumes that the smaller portions are due to cutbacks. She also wondered what happened to the peanut butter and Commissioner St. Clair suggested that perhaps the staff was being extra careful with the peanut butter because there had been recent cases of people becoming sick due to tainted peanut butter.

When asked what she would change, she discussed concerns about recreation and the nursing/health staff. She said that she wished that recreation was not mandatory because she has a difficult time with her asthma during some of the recreation activities. When asked if she received her inhaler in a timely manner, she said sometimes but not all of the time. She reported that she had written multiple grievances regarding the delays in providing her inhaler. Staff members who supervise recreation should work with the health care staff to ensure that girls who require special accommodations to participate in recreation receive them. Also, staff should consider having more comprehensive discussions with girls with special medical needs about why and to what extent participation in recreation is healthy for them, so that they have a better understanding of what their needs are. Additionally, she expressed that she wished that girls at GRF were allowed to have relationships and suggested she was referring to intimate relationships. Commissioner Edwards responded that perhaps staff were concerned that this is not a good time for her to be starting relationships because the intent of this period of time was for her to work on improving her own situation and that relationships initiated during this time may not be the most lasting type of relationship.

MEALS/NUTRITION

Kitchen – Clean; are knives and chemicals locked?

The meals are obtained from KMJDF and are prepared by the County Sheriff's Department. The GRF kitchen is very clean and well kept. The knives are kept locked and are used by the kitchen staff only.

Have the youths working in the kitchen been trained?

Girls do not prepare meals because meals come from KMJDF. Girls may work in the smaller GRF kitchen to assist with the preparation of snacks and special meals for earned special activities, such as "5 Grade" parties.

Are meals served or cafeteria style?

All meals are prepared at the Sheriff Department's central kitchen and transported to KMJDF. Meals are individually wrapped in prepared trays. All meals are served in the dining area in the Day Room

Are minors permitted to converse during meals?

Once they are seated in their assigned seats, girls are permitted to converse with each other during meals at their own table. Girls may not converse between tables.

Is Staff present and supervising?

Staff is present and supervises all meals, including the preparation of the room and the distribution of the meals.

Is weekly menu prepared? Is it posted?

Weekly menus are prepared and posted at GRF. Girls with health conditions that may necessitate a special diet see a nutritionist. The nutritionist can set guidelines for a girl's meals.

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Are servings ample, nutritious and appetizing?

All meals are prepared to be appetizing, and nutritious. Girls who have complaints about the food can write a grievance using GRF's grievance system.

Are weaker youths protected from having food taken from them?

Staff members supervise meals. Seats are assigned keeping girls' temperaments in mind to prevent bullying. Girls are not permitted to share food.

Length of time allowed for eating?

At least 30 minutes is allowed for meals.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF MINORS

Appearance?

Minors were well groomed. They are outfitted in plain pants and T-shirts. GRF-issued clothing, night gowns, robes and shoes are the only clothing the minors are permitted to wear. Girls who are in the STOP program wear bright pink T-shirts. Minors with special needs (e.g. pregnant minors) wear vests to indicate certain restrictions.

Showers – Frequency? Privacy maintained? Supervised by Staff? Any assaults in showers?

All girls must shower a minimum of five minutes every day. Showers are constantly supervised by staff; some privacy is maintained with doors that still allow staff to see girls. There have been no assaults in the shower since the last inspection.

Condition of clothing – Does clothing fit? Is it appropriate to weather?

Clothing is loose fitting and appropriate to weather. Clothing was noted to be clean and well maintained. All of the clothing, including underwear, shoes, robes and night clothing is provided by GRF. Girls are not permitted to wear personal clothing, including during excursions/field trips. Girls may be allowed to wear personal clothing in extraordinary circumstances, such as to a funeral.

PROGRAMS

Recreation – type and amount each day:

Recreation time is provided in compliance with Title XV requirements. Generally, three hours daily and five hours on weekends are allotted for recreation. A broad spectrum of activities is scheduled; girls have access based on their phase in the program and the privileges they have earned. These activities include movie night, beauty night, staff excursions, four- and eight-hour passes with families, special outings etc.

Exercise – Daily schedule and amount of time each day:

Girls are expected to participate in some physical activity daily. Girls participate in calisthenics and sports facilitated by Probation and school staff members.

Access to Religious Services?

There are Catholic and Protestant services available to all girls. Previously, girls had to select which services they wanted to attend, but girls are now permitted to attend both services if they wish. Girls from other faith traditions may request a Chaplain of their faith. All religious services are provided by volunteers. Girls from the new choir are leading songs during religious services.

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Medical/Mental health Services:

Girls at GRF have access to all medical and mental health services provided at KMJDF. Medical services are contracted with and provided by California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG). CFMG continues to contract with Children's Specialist of San Diego (CSSD) out of Children's Hospital for pediatric services provided to girls age 15 or less. Girls older than 15 receive medical services through Sharp Hospital. Daytime staffing includes 1 Physician, 1 Physician's Assistant, 3 Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs), and 1 Registered Nurse (RN). Dr. Alicia Cantu is the current physician. Night staffing includes 1 RN and 2.5 LVNs. While an area nursing shortage continues requiring some shifts to be filled by contract nurses at the time of the last report, there has not been a need to utilize contract nurses recently. Mental health care is provided through County Mental Health; there is a strong working relationship between medical and mental health services characterized by consistent joint meetings at which complex cases are discussed. GRF has a new psychologist, Therese Reichert, Ph.D., that started in December 2007. The staff psychiatrist is Dr. Trammel. There is also a Wellness Team composed of health educators, one of whom is a physician from Mexico. The Supervisor reported that many of the girls relate very well to him.

Additional information about health care services at GRF is discussed below.

Volunteer Program:

GRF has a variety of volunteer programming throughout the year such as Juvenile Court Book Club, La Jolla Country Day All School Book Group, Executive Women International Group, Literacy, Tutors, Narcotics/Alcoholics Anonymous (NA/AA), Teen Prostitution group, Pet Therapy (Humane Society), Life Skills Training, and Cosmetology School. GRF has a new yoga program that has been added since the last report. Yoga classes are taught by a volunteer.

Counseling and Casework:

Each girl is assigned an "inside PO," who is a Correctional Officer, and a team to support the girl in successful completion of her program. All girls in the GRF full program are assigned to an individual counselor, either through Probation Forensics or through Spectrum. All girls are seen once per week. The staff psychologist, Dr. Reichert, can make referrals for girls to be seen more frequently. Girls who are incarcerated for a second time may receive aggression replacement therapy. The Superintendent reports that the Breaking Cycles program has an 85% success rate.

Family Reunification Planning:

Family counseling is conducted once per week (both English and Spanish groups) and is facilitated by GRF staff and by Spectrum. The goal of the group is to create a supportive environment to share and learn positive parenting skills. The group also opens communication between parents and girls to prepare the way for girls to return home. The Supervisor estimated that approximately 30% of families participate in counseling. Staff at GRF communicate with the "outside PO" if parents are not participating. The judge assigned to the girl's case is not necessarily notified or informed that the girl's parents are participating. It is the decision of the outside PO.

Substance Abuse Counseling:

The Spectrum Program facilitates a weekly Chemical Dependency group that begins with fundamental identification of specific chemicals and exposes the girls from the contemplative experimentation progress to addiction. San Diego Youth and Community Services (SDYCS) facilitate a relapse and recovery counseling group. The Supervisor estimated that almost all girls who participate receive some form of counseling related to chemical dependency. Because girls go to GRF after serving time at KMJDF, girls are usually not "detoxing" while at GRF.

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Victim Awareness Classes:

Victim awareness programs are offered for girls who may have been victimized. Victim awareness programs are especially appropriate for girls who may be victims of sexual assault or who have been involved in prostitution. Victim awareness programs are typically offered in a group setting. Girls also have access to a hotline operated by SDYCS. The Supervisor estimates that almost all girls who are committed to GRF have been victimized at some point in their lives. The Supervisor identified these programs as the area she would most like to expand and develop. She would like a grant or other funding source to support additional counseling that can be supported in the community when they leave GRF.

Gang Awareness Classes:

Spectrum provides a "Street Gang Culture" group that addresses the dysfunctional thinking of this culture's lifestyle. The group covers the contemplation period up to the documentation/validation level. The group also explores the destructive natural consequences of their involvement with street gangs. Current legislation and prosecution is also discussed and used as a deterrent to this lifestyle. Girls are encouraged to consider furthering their education or the military as viable alternatives to being apart of a gang. The Supervisor approximated that 80% of the girls participate in this program. Sessions are facilitated for groups of about 10-15 girls at a time. In cases where a girl would not benefit from participating in this program in a group environment, such as when gang membership or affiliation would interfere with having productive sessions, girls are offered individual sessions.

Sexual Harassment Classes:

Girls are provided with education about sexual harassment and are fully aware there is zero tolerance for this behavior at GRF. Each day the correctional officer reads a statement defining sexual harassment and explaining what to do if a girl believes they are being sexually harassed. These allegations are taken very seriously. A girl's ability to identify sexual harassment and take appropriate steps regarding the harassment are also presented to the girls as a life skill.

Parenting Classes:

The "Proud Parenting" group is no longer offered. Staff and health educators that are part of the Wellness Team offer parenting programs to the girls who are mothers. The Supervisor estimated that approximately 10-15 of the girls are pregnant or have a child.

Vocational Classes:

The Regional Occupation Program (ROP) through the Juvenile Court & Community Schools (JCCS) offers a "Retail Sales and Merchandizing" training program for eight weeks. The ROP has staff in place for the girls after they leave GRF and follows up with their programming and job placement in the community. Girls need to be 16 years old to participate. There is also a Work Readiness Program offered through Second Chance.

Work Program:

This work crew program utilizes the girls at GRF to work around the facility. They are involved with beautification projects such as landscaping the GRF entrance, trash abatements within the facility, as well as maintaining appearance of GRF vehicles.

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New Programs:

GRF has added a yoga program, which was mentioned above. The California K9 program is on hold.

DISCIPLINE OF MINORS

Frequency and type:

There is a structured system for discipline; consequences of negative behavior are clearly outlined in the GRF Rule Book and in the Passport to Life Phase outline. Girls are assigned essays called "thinking reports" when they break a rule. Rule breaking can also result in loss of status, regression to a lower program level, workouts (which refers to a loss of privileges and additional responsibilities, not physical exercise), administrative removal to KMJDF, and termination. Short-Term Offender Program (STOP) girls have rule violations, in-house administrative removal to the Annex (the older sleeping area with steel bunk beds between GRF and Unit 400 in KMJDF) as a consequence.

The Superintendent stated that procedural safeguards have been implemented to ensure that there is some level of due process. In order to demonstrate to the girls that staff members take the policies and procedures seriously, girls have had disciplinary measures dismissed on technicalities, such as not receiving a hearing within 24 hours. These types of dismissals have only occurred a few times.

GRIEVANCES

Number and Type:

GRF had over 500 grievances in 2008. The Supervisor reports that grievances are mostly for girls feeling unfairly treated when disciplined, such as when they are assigned thinking reports ("TRs") or thinking essays ("TEs"). Girls also write grievances when they dislike their grades. The grievance procedure has been revised by developing a tracking system and grievance log that is working to ensure all grievances are dealt with accordingly.

Staff should consider categorizing grievances to get a more accurate picture of the number of grievances made regarding various issues. If confidentiality issues are able to be addressed appropriately, this may be an appropriate project for a graduate student or law student volunteer/intern. This may also be something that can be incorporated into the existing tracking system.

TELEPHONE

Access:

Girls are permitted access to a telephone to make collect calls to their family every night and/or as court ordered. Phone calls are considered a privilege and this privilege can be temporarily withheld for disciplinary reasons.

CORRESPONDENCE

Is Postage Free? Is incoming and/or outgoing mail read? Is there confidential correspondence?

Postage is free to girls sending outgoing mail. Incoming and outgoing mail to and from girls is not read. Mail may be "scanned/shaken out" for contraband according to policy. Correspondence is confidential.

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VISITING

Is there adequate space, convenient times or accommodations to parent work schedule, etc. special visits? Does staff supervise visits? Is there adequate privacy?

Adequate space is provided for families to visit twice per week, on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings. Variety in times is provided to accommodate parental work schedule. Visits take place in the spacious Day Room. Special visits also take place at GRF; parents are encouraged to bring siblings and grandparents. These visits last one hour, and outside packaged food, such as fast food, is allowed. GRF staff supervises all visits except Family Counseling sessions.

Have all minors had visits?

Not always. All minors are provided the opportunity for visitation and have visits, unless they have no family or the family chooses not to come.

If a girl does not receive a visit within seven days, they are given a free phone call. The Superintendent and the Supervisor identify transportation problems and lack of interest as the primary reasons why parents do not visit.

SCHOOL

Teachers – Number of full-time; frequency of substitutions:

The school program is year round and staffed with 20 full-time contracted teachers, 3 teachers exclusively for GRF in conjunction with the school program at KMJDF. Because of the year-round schedule, substitute teachers are on site most days to cover for full-time staff vacations and sick leave. The school year is 245 days. At the time of the inspection, 20 girls were on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Number of minors attending school:

School is required and mandatory for all girls at GRF. When at capacity, 50 girls will be in school.

Number of minors in each classroom:

The school program is operated jointly with KMJDF. There are 3 classrooms with 15-20 students in each room.

Number of minors on independent study:

There were no minors on independent study. The school has the capacity to place a minor on independent study if needed; however, there is Saturday School for additional help from 9-11:30 a.m., with two teachers using both classrooms.

Atmosphere of classroom:

The Inspection Team visited a classroom and spoke with Teacher Y. The desks were arranged in a circle in the middle of the room. There were computer workstations against one wall and the teacher's desk was located in the corner. The room was decorated with artwork and other projects that girls' have created. The overall atmosphere of the classroom was lively and inviting.

Adequate Supplies? Books, paper, computers, etc.

Supplies and books are provided by the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE). Classrooms have computers with Internet access. There were new chairs and music supplies.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
GIRLS REHABILITATION FACILITY
INSPECTION REPORT
2008 inspection; completed in March 2009

Activities and coursework:

Coursework is grade appropriate and individualized according to the needs of the students. The education program is standards based ("power standards") and the teachers teach to the required standards. The school uses the Holt series for Language Arts and Prentiss Hall for Math. A variety of Social Science texts are used. School is from 0800—1400, Monday through Friday, with lunch from 1100-1200 and one hour of physical education daily. Each 20 days of attendance equals one credit. A work readiness program has been added. Girls can take college courses online after regular school hours. These programs are offered outside of regular class time, so that there can be sufficient monitoring of the girls time online. Tutoring is available for the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).

Are minors required to do homework?

Girls at GRF receive homework nightly. Homework is completed in their rooms and open areas. Staff and teachers agree that giving homework instills in the girls the opportunity to be held accountable for something. This sense of responsibility may be new for many of the girls. The Supervisor and Teacher reported that girls are often surprised by what they are able to accomplish and frequently "rise to the occasion" when they are held to higher standards than those to which they may be accustomed.

Number of minors not attending. Reason:

All girls attend school. School is a requirement to participate in the program at GRF.

Relationship between the school and GRF staff.

The interactions between GRF staff and school staff appeared to be very positive. The Inspection Team sensed feelings of mutual respect and the Supervisor spoke very highly of Teacher Y.

MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Inspection Team interviewed Pynne Looper, RN, MHA, Medical Program Manager. The Medical Program Manager is an employee of California Forensic Medical Group, Inc. The Medical Program Manager reported that girls receive an initial health screening/interview when they enter GRF. Girls are asked basic questions about their health and immunization history. The Medical Program Manager acknowledged the girls often do not know or are not able to provide this type of information. All girls are asked STD related questions, receive a Chlamydia test and a pregnancy test. The Inspection Team received a copy of the form used to conduct the initial assessment. The Inspection Team is very concerned that the girls may not be asked health-related questions in a developmentally appropriate manner. The Inspection Team recommends that a parent or guardian be included in the initial assessment or that contact be made with parents routinely as part of the initial assessment rather than only if it appears to be needed. Girls return to the clinic three days after their initial health assessment for a physical and to have their tuberculosis skin test (PPD) read.

Girls can fill out sick call slips if they would like to see a member of the medical staff. Sick call slips are collected 5 times per day. Girls are usually seen within 24-72 hours. Girls are seen by an RN, PA or MD depending on the nature of the request.

CFMG contracts with A&B Pharmacy. Pharmaceuticals can be obtained the same day if needed, but prescriptions typically take 24-48 hours to fill. The San Diego County Pharmacy supplies psychotropic medication, typically within 24 hours.

When a girl leaves GRF, her medical records are released to her or her parent if she has a chronic condition. According to the Medical Program Manager, medical records can be accessed easily by health care providers in the community after a girl is released. Schools can access health care records with the girl's/parent's consent.

/end